

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
Wenatchee Field Office
915 Walla Walla Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

A. Background

BLM Office: Wenatchee Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: WAOR-67913

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-ORWA-W020-2015-0002-CX

Proposed Action Title: Renewal of Crown Castle/Pinnacle Towers Goodnoe Hills Communication Site and FLPMA conversion.

Location of Proposed Action: T. 3 N., R. 18 E., sec. 4: Lots 1 & 2.

Proposed Action: The existing communication site lease for WAW-04873 expired. BLM proposes to authorize the renewal of the original communication site lease with a new case number WAOR-67913 and conversion to a Title V Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) authorization. The site totals 1.190 acres. The term of the grant would be for 30 years. No new ground disturbance is proposed or permitted.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

The proposed action is in conformance with the Spokane RMP because it is specifically provided for in the RMP: Keep public lands open for exploration/development of mineral resources, rights-of-way, access, and other public purposes with consideration to mitigate designated resource concerns (BLM 1987, p. 12)

C. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with:

516 DM 11.9.E (11): Conversion of existing right-of-way grants to Title V grants or existing leases to FLPMA Section 302(b) leases where no new facilities or other changes are needed.

516 DM 11.9.E (9): Renewals and assignments of leases, permits or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.



These categorical exclusions are appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as described below:

a. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety.

There would be no impacts on public health or safety as this is just a renewal of an existing communication site and conversion to a FLPMA authorization.

b. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

The communication site is existing and no new disturbance to natural or cultural resources is proposed nor permitted.

c. The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

There are no highly controversial environmental effects identified or unresolved conflicts noted during IDT scoping as this is an existing site with no additional rights proposed nor granted. There are no highly controversial effects as this is an existing communication site and no new ground disturbance is involved or permitted.

d. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

The existing communication site would have no uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects as it simply the renewal of an existing communication site and no new ground disturbance is involved or permitted.

e. The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

No precedent is being set by approving the renewal of this right-of-way. This type of renewal action for an existing communication site is a typical right-of-way action that must be addressed on a case-by-case basis and therefore would not set a precedent for future action.

f. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

The approval of this authorization is for an existing communication site and is not associated to other federal actions insignificant or cumulatively significant environmental effects, and as such is not related to other actions with other cumulatively significant environmental effects.

g. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

A renewal of this existing communication site would not fall within areas that listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

h. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species.

No impacts to threatened, endangered, or proposed species were identified for this project. The proposed action would not change the amount or suitability of wildlife habitat in the project area as this is an existing communication site and no new activities are proposed or permitted.

i. The proposed action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

This proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Spokane District ROD/RMP which complies with all applicable laws; National Environmental Protection Act and FLPMA are being followed in processing this right-of-way.

j. The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

The renewal of this existing right-of-way would not affect low income or minority populations in anyway as this is an existing communication site and no surface disturbing activities are proposed or permitted.

k. The proposed action would not limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

There would be no access limitations to any populations as the location of the communication site is on public land. No sacred sites were found in the cultural inventory.

l. The proposed action would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Implementation of this renewal for the existing communication site, on a location where disturbance is currently present and no new ground disturbance is proposed or permitted, would not contribute to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species. Standard stipulations would address the control of weeds or invasive species.

D. Signature

/s/ Linda Coates-Markle
Linda Coates-Markle
Field Manager

10/22/15
Date

F. Contact Person & Reviewers

For additional information concerning this Categorical Review, contact Brenda Woods, at 509-665-2116.

Reviewers	Resource	Initials	Date
J.A. Vacca	Wildlife, Special Status Wildlife	JAV	08/10/15
Molly Boyter	Botany, Special Status Plants	mjb	9/14/15
Kat Russell	Historic/Cultural	klr	9/14/15
Anjolene Price	NEPA	ajp	10/22/15

Note: A separate decision document has been prepared for the action covered by this CX.